An assessment of 19th century climate data resources in the North Pacific – Arctic

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We are currently in the process of identifying and recovering a range of historical climate data for the North Pacific – Arctic region. The objective is to extend our perspective of long-term climate change and variability in this region and to identify any important teleconnections to mid-latitudes. We specifically target meteorological, oceanographic, and sea-ice observations recorded from the earliest discovery expeditions to about 1950 that are unlikely to have been examined in recent years. For example, sub-daily meteorological records and associated metadata from the Russian – American period (to ~1868) were published annually by the Central Physical Observatory in St. Petersburg, Russia. A comprehensive metadata catalog was published by Leyst in 1884, but it is unclear whether all of these records still survive. We present an initial evaluation of these data and report on other progress to date.